

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, May 17, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Beth Manke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Beth Manke, Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Bill DeBlasio, Ed Marchion, Mary Beth Kelliher, James Cultrera, Don Woods

Board Members Absent: Jen Crowley, Sue Reniewicz, Sarah Jorgensen

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 19, 2016**

**Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting. Mary Beth Kelliher seconded the motion. The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

From the Superintendent, Bill DeMaio:

**USTA New England - Tennis Grant:** The Parks & Recreation Department received \$1,500 in cash and \$2,500 in equipment. In Bob Dean's contract, he is to hire four extra instructors. All 1st and 2nd graders from the Mortensen's Community Center Summer Camp will get tennis lessons for six weeks also including a family/parent/child play day and tournament for the kids.

**Camille Prentice - "Run for Dom" 5K fee reduction request:** Camille is requesting a refund fee of \$60.00. Superintendent DeMaio stated that there are costs for staff before and after the event and it is an adult activity. This matter to be discussed further in the meeting.

**Newington Chamber of Commerce - 2016 Award Recipients:** Three people from Parks and Recreation received awards; Don Woods was one of the recipients. There will be a ceremony June 3rd at Indian Hill Golf Club. Also awarded was Data Mail's Andy Mandel who donated \$6,000 this year to Parks and Recreation Department plus \$5,000 mailing to all the households and Dave Johnson who donated \$3,000 to the first Motorcycle Madness.

**VI. SUMMARY REPORT**

Low on Overtime due to of lack of snow this year.

Eileen Francolino asked how the pre-employment testing worked out and if Superintendent DeMaio got the results he was looking for.

Superintendent DeMaio responded he got the candidates that he was looking for; they are currently in the interviewing process. The Parks and Recreation Department has also attracted a few students from Springfield College and Eastern CT State University that are Sports Management

and Parks and Recreation majors. One of the students will be interning with the Department and the others will be working as counselors this summer.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fee Waiver for "Run for Dom" 5K**

Camille Prentice is looking for a fee refund of \$60.00 for the upcoming ALS 5k run. Don Woods mentioned that there is already a policy in place for waiving fees. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned that this is for a great cause but this is an adult activity and he would like to remain fair and consistent.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to deny the refund of \$60.00 as per the current Parks and Recreation Policy. Mary Udice seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.**

### **Commission request for Churchill Park presentation to Town Council May 24, 2016**

Superintendent DeMaio has put this on today's agenda for the consideration of the Commission to push this forward and formally put on the agenda for the Town Council for May 24th. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned all the consultants were available on said day.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to formally request a presentation of Churchill Park in front of the Town Council on Tuesday May 24, 2026. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.**

Eileen suggested a walking tour of park before meeting is held or sometime soon. Superintendent DeMaio responded that we show the slide show at the meeting and make arrangements for them to walk through the park with the Architects and Engineers at another date.

## **IX. Reports**

### **Mill Pond Playground Update**

Playground is going well, surface is good and no water has bubbled up. College kids are employed to watch park at night. Friday the company will be back to hydro-seed. Plan to re-open the playground by Memorial Day. Talk tubes have been blown out and reattached and they work again. Wall near the fun sway was moved and now fun sway works properly a concrete brick material has replaced old wall.

### **Motorcycle Madness**

Two days away, there is a good buzz going on. Advertising has been done with Channel 3 and Steve Parker for Radio spots. Good parking plan in place for up to 500 motorcycles possibly more if that should happen. There are a lot of prizes, TJ's donated \$200.00 worth of gift certificates to match the \$200.00 spent by Parks and Recreation. The Rooster Club donated a \$25.00 gift card, and Cardio Express donated a one year membership at \$250.00. All shaping up nicely. Fire Department is bringing in portable lights, In The Groove Band will be playing, 17 Food

Trucks, 12 motorcycle related vendors. Mill Pond Park will be buzzing. Professional beer and wine company coming in from Berlin, CT - David Allen. Engineering Department is helping make signs, Father Mike from Hebron will be doing the blessing of the bikes before the band starts.

Jim Cultrera asked where the Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting. Superintendent DeMaio responded that Commission volunteers should meet at 4:30 pm at the information tent to be assigned to other areas.

Eileen Francolino mentioned bringing out the Extravaganza Fireworks donation buckets. Superintendent DeMaio responded that they will be at the information tent for people to make donations.

### **Extravaganza Radio Spot with Renee Dinino**

Superintendent DeMaio met with Renee Dinino who broadcasts the community calendar on 9 radio stations, the segment will be broadcasted on some of the radio stations on the morning of July 10<sup>th</sup> and most of the radio stations on the night of July 10<sup>th</sup>. She will also be at the Extravaganza for 2 hours as part of the radio sponsorship from the carnival company. Superintendent DeMaio received \$5,000 in cash from the Carnival Company and \$2,000 in wristbands to give away. Superintendent DeMaio traded some wristbands for DJ's to give away in contests in exchange for radio spots. The extravaganza is coming together nicely.

Other donations made by Century 21 of \$1,000 for helicopter rides, ReMax is letting Parks and Recreation keep the \$10 per ride for hot air balloon rides, MDC donated \$1,000 and saving approximately \$2,000 on stage rental from New Britain which has allowed the Department to get some really good bands to play.

### **New Jingle**

The new jingle is out and playing. Idea for a "Newington Idle" a contest for the kids in the summer camp in grades 3 through 7 to sing and record the jingle before their voices change and air on the radio.

### **The Greatest Summer Concert Cookie Give-a-way**

The Representative from Energy Solutions has made a contact with Eversource and they will be buying 300 cookies, Jefferson House are looking into purchasing cookies for a concert, Stew Leonard's will be buying cookies for a concert as well and these cookies will be given away during the summer concerts. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned that he has a couple of other companies that are interested in the Cookie Give-a-way.

Beth Manke asked when the wishing well will be at Stew Leonard's for the Extravaganza Fireworks Display.

Superintendent DeMaio responded it will be there mid-June.

### **Pool Update**

Superintendent DeMaio is currently getting quotes for patching and painting of Mill Pond Pool and Churchill Park Pool. Getting closer to try to open both pool, both pools are old and in bad shape.

**Extras:****Cemetery**

Superintendent DeMaio was given the Town Ordinance regarding the Cemeteries. Parks and Recreation recently did a clean-up at the cemetery. Superintendent DeMaio passed around copies of these rules to the board members to peruse. In the rules, it states that bric a brack of any kind is not allow and by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year the gravesites will be cleaned and anything left will be confiscated and disposed of. In the clean-up process, Superintendent DeMaio had his crew label all items from each site with the family name and were left near the garage for family members to retrieve. There currently is no Sexton for Newington. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned to the Town Manager that he should be appointed as the Sexton. The Parks and Recreation Commission does not have the authority to make policy at the cemeteries. Currently there is no cemetery commission in this town. Only the Town Council can make rules for the cemeteries at this time.

Don Woods asked if direct burial annual plantings will or will not be allowed in front of stones. Superintendent DeMaio responded under these rules no, but if it is done anyway if the plants get cut or trimmed the town is not liable for them.

**Mill Pond**

Bill DeBlasio asked superintendent DeMaio about the speeding on Garfield Street.

**Challenger Baseball Field**

Superintendent DeMaio asked the Board Members if they would be interested in pursuing a Challenger Little League Field which is hard surface synthetic field, small like a little league field. The Little League Challenger Program is Little League's adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and developmental challenges.

Bill DeBlasio mentioned the Center Field on Cedar Street as a possible field in town that might work for the Challenger Field.

Don Woods said the parking lot may be private.

Superintendent DeMaio is going to looking into it.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Diana Serra of 237 Reservoir Road** is concerned about the parking situation at the little league fields that are not designated parking areas for family members. The field located on the corner of West Hill and Fenn Road there is a lot of cars parking on the field. Ms. Serra was also concerned about possible leaking fuel on the field and foul balls hitting cars.

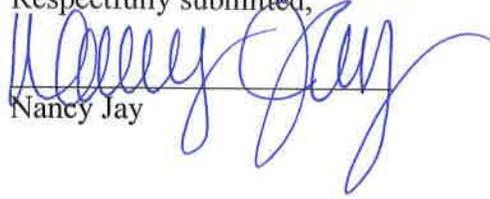
Superintendent DeMaio responded that it is more of a police issue and is also school property, Parks and Recreation Department just maintains the property.

Bill DeBlasio said he would talk to the President of Little League to look into more parking spots.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to adjourn. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm with an 8-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy Jay